SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, AND HUMANISM IN SOCIAL WORK: From the Passive-Sociologist Model to the Proactive-Multidisciplinary Model and from „Social Assistant” to „Social Professional”

Original title (in Romanian): STIINTA, FILOSOFIE SI UMANISM IN ASISTENTA SOCIALA: De la Modelul Pasiv-Sociologist la Modelul Proactiv-Multidisciplinar si de la „Asistent” Social la „Profesionist” Social

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BOOK DESCRIPTION

The volume introduces into contemporary Romanian social work literature an integrative, multi-level, complex, and multidisciplinary perspective on the theory, practice, and policy of social work. It highlights a diversity of models—grouped into three main categories: scientific, philosophical, and humanist—within the subsequences of social theory, practice, and policy.

Much of the work incorporates ideas and content from seven articles previously published by the author in the *Social Work Review* of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Bucharest, issued by Polirom Publishing House:

- *The Ideological-Doctrinal Dimension of Social Work. Contemporary Social Work Theory, Method, and Practice – Between the Ethical-Religious Model and the Neohumanist Model*, No. 2, 2019, pp. 103-120.
- *The Role of Philosophy in Professional Training and the Effectiveness of Social Worker Intervention*, No. 4, 2018, pp. 109-126.
- *The Humanist Perspective on Intervention and Change in Community Social Work*, No. 2, 2018, pp. 161-174.
- *The Humanist Paradigm of Social Work or a Brief Introduction to Humanist Social Work*, No. 1, 2012, pp. 103-120.
- *The Humanist Perspective on the Client in Social Work*, No. 1-2, 2009, pp. 7-19.

- *Socio-Affective Developmental Disorders in Institutionalized Children: From Survival to Happiness Objectives in Child Social Work*, No. 1-2, 2008, pp. 38-62.
- *The Specifics of (Efficient) Management in Social Work*, No. 3, 2007, pp. 28-47.

It also integrates content from the author's chapter "**Humanist and Neohumanist Approaches and Methods in the Management of Social Work Organizations**" in the collective volume *Theory and Practice in the Management of Social Work Services* (Presa Universitară Clujeană, edited by Assoc. Prof. Dr. C.-V. Cormos), as well as from *The Theory of Happiness in Social Work* (Științifică Lumen, 2009).

This volume also draws on doctoral research reports and various studies presented by the author in scientific and academic settings.

Despite incorporating material from different sources, this is not a mere collection. It is an integrative, coherent, and unified project in which the selected ideas are organically interconnected and aligned with the scientific objectives. The new framework contributes to developing an innovative theory of social work based on a complex humanist philosophy and multidisciplinary scientific knowledge.

In the *Conclusions and Proposals* section, the author introduces the concept of **Complex Social Work Based on Multidisciplinary Knowledge**, advocating a transition from a passive-sociologist model to a proactive-multidisciplinary one in the theory, practice, and policy of Romanian social work.

The author also calls for radical changes in the status, training, roles, and title of the typical social work practitioner. He proposes, for debate, the term "**social professional**" instead of "social worker," as the former better reflects the complexity and empowerment-oriented focus of today's practice, including psychological, legal, economic, managerial, cultural, and transformative activities aimed at autonomy and reintegration.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Professionals, volunteers, and workers in social protection systems
- Students training for careers in social work and social protection
- Students in socio-human sciences, social philosophy, and related academic disciplines
- Teachers and academic staff in social work and socio-human studies
- Managers in the field of social protection
- Politicians and decision-makers in social policy
- Researchers, academics, and professionals shaping integrative, adaptive social work theory
- Stakeholders involved in redefining the role and identity of the "social worker" in modern Romanian society

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